



Deborah Gist
Commissioner

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Shepard Building
255 Westminster Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

Rhode Island Special Education Advisory Committee

The Rhode Island Special Education Advisory Committee is an active voice in advocating that all students receive superior educational services enabling each student to achieve optimum success throughout the school years and into the world of adulthood.

March 18, 2010

6:30pm – 8:30pm

New England Institute of Technology
Hall of Fame Room
2500 Post Road, Warwick, RI 02886

Meeting Minutes

Present: Denise Ahern, Jeffrey Aubin, Wilfred Beaudoin, Ann Brockmann, Mike Burk, Amy Canario, Barbara Chadwick, Kim Chouinard, Sheila Collins, Steven DiBiasio, Deborah Garneau, Kathy Kuiper, Craig Levis, Dorothy McDonough, Jane Morein, JoAnn Nannig, Pamela O'Brien, Ralph Orleck, Mary Pendergast, Kellie Piche-Tatro, Walter Sage, Sharon Schubert, Lisa Shea, Jane Slade, Paul Stroup Jr., Sharon Terzian, Louise Tillinghast

Absent: Deborah Ambeault, Marie Cummiskey, Joanne Eichinger*, Deborah Goessling*, Kelly Marie Martin, Richard Moore, Marty Morris, Robin Pacheco,

*sent advanced notice

RIDE: Melissa MacDonald

Guests: none

Call to Order, Welcome, Agenda Review,

Announcements:

- Melissa announced that the parent survey will be mailed out the week of 3/29/10. Advertisements will be placed on busses, in the Providence Journal, on the radio and via public service announcements.
- The Membership group is processing applications for new members. Eight of the current members are either leaving or their term has ended. The committee has received 4-5 applications and will be scheduling interviews.

Approval of the February 25, 2010 Meeting Minutes:

The meeting minutes were approved.

Director's Report:

Ken was unable to be here so Melissa read his report. The report is attached.

Old Business**Issue form:**

Ralph reviewed the Issue Form that was submitted by members of the committee regarding the use of mechanical restraints. It was suggested that the issue form needed to be completed before the committee could formally act on it. Specifically action steps rather than probing questions needed to be included on the form so the committee would have something more formal to respond to.

Strategic planning:

Groups reviewed their action plans and gave updates. See attached

New Business**Presentation:**

Kim Chouinard – presented information on the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act. Kim highlighted that the primary focus of the act is to maintain educational continuity during times of transition for children who are homeless. She gave a detailed presentation and provided resources to the group including a copy of her Power Point presentation, an FAQ sheet and several other informational handouts.

Presentation:

Pam Obrien presented information on programs offered through the Parent Support Network (PSN). She highlighted some of PSN's programs including Peer Mentor Programs and Parent Support Programs. Pam spoke specifically about the Truancy Prevention Project, a Parent Support Program that she is directly involved in. She also provided the group with informational brochures about PSN and the Truancy Prevention Project.

Ralph encouraged members to consider giving presentations on their roles in services for IDEA students at future meetings.

Public Comment – none

Anyone interested in joining the Membership Committee or being nominated for a officer position should let Sheila Collins know.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Recording Secretary: Mary Pendergast

RISEAC website: www.riseac.org

Next Meeting: April 29, 2010

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